Inferior quality spares causing MIG crashes

1684. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:
DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Russian Deputy General Designer of the MIG Corporation, as reported in Times of India of August 22, 2001 to the effect that the recent frequent air-crashes involving MIG aircraft were attributable to the low quality of spares, Government procured for these plans from Ukraine and East European countries; and

(b) if so, how far Government agree to his observation and its reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Low quality spares are not procured by the Indian Air Force. While the bulk of spares for MIG aircraft are indigenously manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the balance quantities are procured through authorised agencies only, which are either Original Equipment Manufacturers of established vendors.

IAF Jaguar Crash on U.P. Haryana Border

1685. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an IAF Jaguar fighter aircraft crashed in the sugar fields on U.P.-Haryana border on October 25, 2001;

(b) if so, the causes and circumstances leading to the crash; and

(c) the number of Jaguar fighters so far lost in air crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pilot inadvertently entered into a spin / autorotation manoeuvre from which he was unable to recover. This was a case of Human Error (Aircrew) wherein the pilot mishandled the controls and exceeded the laid down parameters, causing the aircraft to enter into a spin.

(c) A total number of thirty Jaguar aircraft have been lost in aircrashes since induction till 20th November, 2001.

Present Stage of ALH Project

1686. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of progress of the Advanced Light Helicopter project and by when it is likely to reach the manufacturing stage;

(b) the major steps taken thereon, so far; and

(c) the major steps taken the son, so far;

(d) the expenditure so far incurred as against the original estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Four prototypes of Advanced Light Helicopter have been manufactured and have completed 1361 flight tests amounting to more than 1320 flying hours towards evaluation and certification. The Design certification of skid variant Advanced Light Helicopter has already been achieved in March, 2001. Further flight evaluation is required for certification of wheeled version and is planned for completion by end February 2002.

Limited Series Production often helicopters has been launched and two of them are ready for delivery to Army. Delivery to other customers *viz.,* Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard is also planned to commence during the current production year.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 534.26 crores has already been incurred against the sanction of Rs. 536.05 crores accorded in November, 1998.

Book on wars and conflicts since independence

1687. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out an official version of the various wars and conflicts which the country has fought since independence;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any team of historians/scholars have been identified for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof togetherwith their qualifications, experience and expertise in the field; and